

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

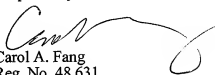
Status of the Claims

After entry of this amendment, claims 1, 8-15, 22-24, and 28 are pending. Claim 22 has been amended solely to ensure correct antecedent basis. Thus, the amendment adds no new matter.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,


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